

**UNPUBLISHED**

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

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**No. 04-6530**

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff - Appellee,

versus

STEVEN DIXON PRENTICE,

Defendant - Appellant.

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Appeal from the United States District Court for the Middle  
District of North Carolina, at Durham. James A. Beaty, Jr.,  
District Judge. (CR-01-31; CA-03-891-1)

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Submitted: June 24, 2004

Decided: July 1, 2004

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Before WILKINSON, NIEMEYER, and SHEDD, Circuit Judges.

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Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

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Steven Dixon Prentice, Appellant Pro Se. Lisa Blue Boggs,  
Assistant United States Attorney, Greensboro, North Carolina, for  
Appellee.

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Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.  
See Local Rule 36(c).

PER CURIAM:

Steven Dixon Prentice seeks to appeal the district court's order denying relief on his motion filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 (2000). The order is not appealable unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1) (2000). A certificate of appealability will not issue absent "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2) (2000). A prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find that his constitutional claims are debatable and that any dispositive procedural rulings by the district court are also debatable or wrong. See Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (2003); Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); Rose v. Lee, 252 F.3d 676, 683 (4th Cir. 2001). We have independently reviewed the record and conclude that Prentice has not made the requisite showing. Accordingly, we deny Prentice's motion to proceed in forma pauperis, deny a certificate of appealability, and dismiss the appeal. We dispense with oral argument because the facts and legal contentions are adequately presented in the materials before the court and argument would not aid the decisional process.

DISMISSED